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## **CITY OF MANCHESTER**

### *Health Department*

#### **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release  
August 24, 2018

#### **CONTACT**

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657-2712

### **West Nile Virus Risk Level raised to “High” City of Manchester to Spray for Mosquito Control Next Week**

**Manchester, NH** – The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has identified the seventh batch of mosquitoes to test positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) in Manchester this season, making it the fifth positive detection in the last week. The City of Manchester Health Department announced today that the City of Manchester will spray to control adult mosquitoes on Tuesday August 28, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. If weather conditions are not acceptable on August 28, 2018, spraying will take place on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at the same time.

According to Tim Soucy, Public Health Director, “The Manchester Health Department continues to identify mosquitoes which have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). This raises the risk level to “high” as determined by the NH Department of Health and Human Services’ *State Arboviral Illness Surveillance, Prevention, and Response Plan*, indicating that there is sustained or increasing WNV activity in mosquitoes.

With the commencement of fall sports leagues, use of sports fields and some parks has increased during the evening hours, when people are more apt to be bitten by mosquitoes. We want to be proactive in protecting the public health of the community. In addition to this action, residents must continue to protect themselves by using of appropriate insect repellent, wearing long pants and long sleeved shirts at dawn and dusk, and eliminating mosquito breeding areas, as we anticipate finding additional positive mosquitoes over the next two months

Spraying may be done in the following locations:

Gossler / Parkside School; Parker Varney School; Southside Middle School; West Memorial Field; Highland Goffs Falls School; Green Acres / McLaughlin Schools; Jewett Street School; McDonough School; Hillside School; Memorial High School; Stark Park; Livingston Park; Rock Rimmon Park; Derryfield Park; Youngsville Park; Padden Field / Stevens Pond Park; Derryfield Country Club; Raco Theodore Park; Piscataquog River Park; Wolfe Park; Basquil-Sheehan Park; Prout Park; Stevens Park; Brown Mitchell Park; St. Anthony Park; Precourt Park; Goffs Falls Park; Gill Stadium Complex; Singer / Merrimack River Park; Clement Lemire Athletic Complex.

1528 Elm Street • Manchester, New Hampshire 03101 • (603) 624-6466  
Administrative & Environmental Health FAX: (603) 628-6004; Community Health FAX: (603) 665-6894 / (603) 624-6584  
E-mail: [health@manchesternh.gov](mailto:health@manchesternh.gov) • Website: [www.manchesternh.gov/health](http://www.manchesternh.gov/health)

Dragon Mosquito Control Inc., Brentwood NH, will carry out the mosquito control program using backpack sprayers and/or a truck mounted sprayer on City owned property only. No city-wide road or aerial spraying is to be conducted.

WNV is transmitted from the bite of an infected mosquito. Humans who become infected with WNV may have no symptoms, or mild, flu-like symptoms including fever, muscle aches, headaches, and fatigue. If illness does occur, symptoms will appear within 4 to 10 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. A very small percentage of individuals infected with WNV can go on to develop more serious central nervous system disease, including meningitis or encephalitis. If you or someone you know is experiencing flu-like symptoms, including fever and headache, they should contact their local medical provider.

Residents may call the Manchester Health Department at 624-6466 or visit the City's website at [www.manchesternh.gov](http://www.manchesternh.gov) for more information regarding spray dates and times, location, insecticides, precautions and other concerns. Additionally, individuals with questions about mosquito-borne disease can call the New Hampshire Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496. A Fact Sheet on [West Nile Virus](#) is available on the DHHS website at [www.dhhs.nh.gov](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov). For more information, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

### **West Nile Facts and Prevention**

West Nile Virus is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito that has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. For humans the risk of contracting the infection is low and in the overwhelming majority of cases, there are no symptoms or just mild, flu-like symptoms. If illness does occur, it happens within 4 to 10 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. If someone is experiencing flu-like symptoms including fever and headache, they should contact their local medical provider.

The Manchester Health Department has established an information line to assist citizens with concerns and questions about WNV and EEE. The phone number is 624-6466 and is staffed during normal business hours. After normal business hours, citizens can leave a voice message that will be returned the next business day.

The following is a link to EPA evaluated repellents effective against mosquitoes:

<https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents>

### **Prevention Guidelines for West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis**

**1. Eliminate standing water and other mosquito breeding locations around your property. Please do not attempt to drain or alter natural water bodies for mosquito control, since the management of ponds and wetlands is regulated by the Department of Environmental Services and any planned alterations will require a permit before work may begin. In warm weather, mosquitoes can breed in any puddle that lasts more than 4 days!**

- Remove old tires from your property.
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots, or other containers. Don't overlook containers that have become overgrown by aquatic vegetation.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outside.
- Make sure roof gutters are clean and draining properly.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools and hot tubs. If not in use, keep empty and covered and keep covers free of standing water.
- Aerate garden ponds or stock them with fish.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and change water in birdbaths at least twice weekly.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use.
- Remind or help neighbors to eliminate breeding sites on their properties.

**2. Be aware of where mosquitoes live and breed and keep them from entering your home.**

- Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Weeds, tall grass, and bushes provide an outdoor home for adult mosquitoes, including several species commonly associated with West Nile virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

- Mosquitoes can enter homes through unscreened windows or doors or broken screens. Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace all screens in your home that have tears or holes.
- Resting mosquitoes can often be flushed from indoor resting sites by using sweeping motions under beds, behind bedside tables etc. and once in flight, exterminated prior to sleeping at night.

### **3. Protect yourself from mosquito bites.**

- If outside during evening, nighttime, and dawn hours when mosquitoes are most active and likely to bite, children and adults should wear protective clothing such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and socks.
- Consider the use of an effective insect repellent, such as one containing DEET. A repellent containing 30% or less DEET (N,N-diethyl-methyl-meta-toluamide) for children and adults. Use DEET according to the manufacturer's directions. Children should not apply DEET to themselves. Repellents that contain Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 have also been determined to be effective.
- Vitamin B, ultrasonic devices, incense, and bug zappers have not been shown to be effective in preventing mosquito bites.

*The following is a copy of the official notification to be posted at all spraying locations at least 12 hours before spraying:*

## **PUBLIC NOTICE MOSQUITO CONTROL for the CITY OF MANCHESTER**

Spraying to control adult mosquitoes will take place on **Tuesday August 28<sup>th</sup> 2018, from 5:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.** If weather conditions are not acceptable on August 28th, 2018, spraying will take place on Wednesday, August 29th, 2018 at the same time.

Spraying may be done in the following locations:

Gossler / Parkside School; Parker Varney School; Southside Middle School; West Memorial Field; Highland Goffs Falls School; Green Acres / McLaughlin Schools; Jewett Street School; McDonough School; Hillside School; Memorial High School; Stark Park; Livingston Park; Rock Rimmon Park; Derryfield Park; Youngsville Park; Padden Field / Stevens Pond Park; Derryfield Country Club; Raco Theodore Park; Piscataquog River Park; Wolfe Park; Basquil-Sheehan Park; Prout Park; Stevens Park; Brown Mitchell Park; St. Anthony Park; Precourt Park; Goffs Falls Park; Gill Stadium Complex; Singer / Merrimack River Park; Clement Lemire Athletic Complex.

The insecticides, Duet (prallethrin 1% & sumithrin 5%) and CrossCheck Plus (bifenthrin 7.9%) will be used to control

adult mosquitoes. Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc. of Brentwood will be the applicator.

Spraying will be achieved using backpack sprayers and/or a truck mounted sprayer. No town wide road spraying is scheduled at this time. Residents may call the Manchester Health Department at 624-6466 for more information regarding spray dates and times, location, insecticides, precautions and other concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy M. Soucy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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**Timothy Soucy, MPH**

**Public Health Director**